

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 09/555,102  
Applicant : Nicholas Thomas  
Filed : July 17, 2000  
TC/A.U. : 1641  
Examiner : Gailene Gabel

Confirmation No.: 9263

Docket No. : PA9720  
Customer No. : 22840

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

April 8, 2004

**AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In response to the Office action of November 12, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.

Applicants are also submitting, concurrently herewith, a "Combined Notice of Appeal from the Primary Examiner to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences and Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) (Large Entity)" extending the period of response two months from February 12, 2004, up to and including April 12, 2004.